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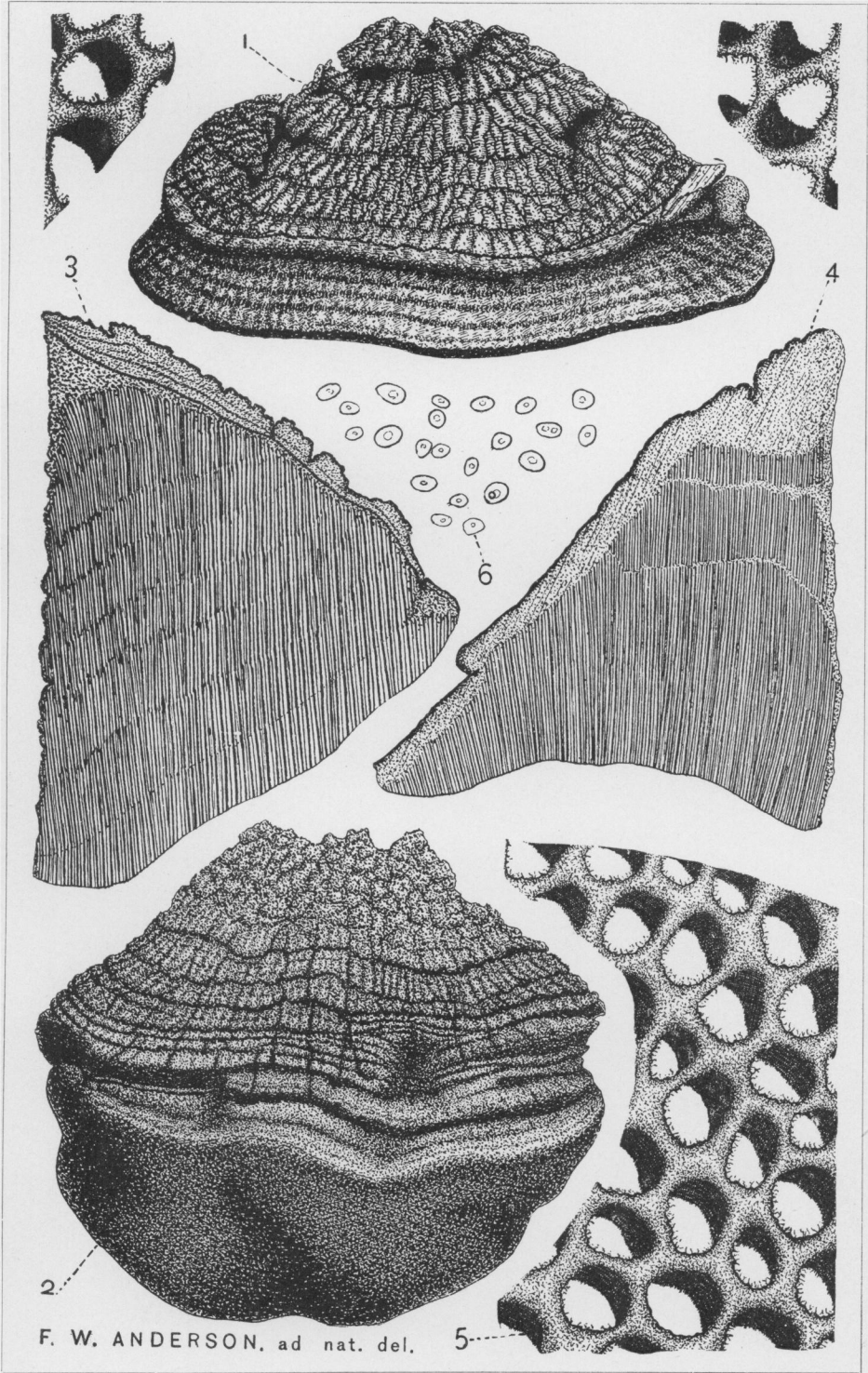
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ANDERSON on FOMES.

says of *T. patens*, "It keeps fresh in spite of heat and drouth, and will grow vigorously on unshaded rocks."¹

Not uncommon on the rocks were specimens of *Houstonia purpurea* L. var. *longifolia* Gray. The characteristics were intermediate, allying it more closely to the type than ordinary examples of the variety; the leaves being sometimes three-ribbed and somewhat tufted or rosulate near the root. Several stems usually grow from the same root. The only plants besides calling for notice are, *Oxybaphus nyctagineus*, seen occasionally on the rocky banks, and *Gentiana alba* in springy ground.

(Concluded next month.)

Englewood, Chicago.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

A new Aster from California (with plate XI).—*Aster Orcuttii* Vasey & Rose, n. sp.—Stems suffruticose, somewhat branching, pearly white, glabrous: lower leaves obovate, 1 to 2 in. long, with cuneate base; upper ones often oblong, with broad sessile or somewhat clasping base, obtuse at tip, spinulose-toothed, glabrous: heads solitary and terminal on leafy branches, sessile or nearly so, very large, an inch or more in diameter: bracts of the involucre closely imbricated in 3 or 4 series, oblong with tapering green tips ciliate on the margins: rays an inch long, "lavender to delicate mauve color": disk-flowers 4 lines long, tapering toward the base: style branches broad: achenes densely long white villous: pappus coarse and scabrous.—Collected at "Cariso Creek Wash," Colorado Desert, California (where it is very abundant), April and November, by *C. R. Orcutt*.—This handsome flowered species, although it resembles in habit and leaf some species of *Aplopappus*, evidently belongs to Gray's section *MEGALASTRUM* under *Aster*, and near *A. tortifolius*. It differs from that species in its almost sessile head, different involucral bracts, obtuse leaves, and larger disk-flowers. Mr. Orcutt obtained seeds of it and considers it worthy of cultivation.—*J. N. Rose, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

A new Fomes from northern Montana. (With plate XII).—*Fomes Ellisianus* Anders., n. sp.:—On the living trunks and larger branches of *Shepherdia argentea*, valley of the Teton, opposite the "Three Knees," buttes of the Marias river, northern Montana, July 1889. *Anderson, no. 537.*

¹ Les Fleurs de pleine Terre, p. 1124.

Pileus dimidiate, unguliform, 5 to 6 cm. thick, radiate-rugose and zonate; surface whitish and subpulverulent at first, becoming yellowish and glabrate, rimose, and finally of a dark, weather-beaten wood color; margin subobtusate or rounded, in the plane and concave specimens frequently with a distinct edge along its centre: pores stratose, sub-cylindrical, about three to a millimeter (including dissepiments), margins sub-acute, color at first white, finally creamy or faintly yellowish, fragile, easily bruised and rubbed off, leaving the surface ochraceous; surface concave, becoming plane or convex in age. Pores extending nearly through to the upper surface of the pileus, being covered above only by a thin (2-4 mm.) corky, pale-ochraceous layer. Spores hyaline, elliptical-globose or oblong, $5-6 \times 4-5 \mu$.

In old specimens the annual layer of pores does not extend fully out, so that the margin of the pileus becomes broadly rounded, as described.

Related to *Fomes fraxinophilus* Peck, which species is thinner and broader, not rimose and with the pore walls thicker.

This fine species, *Fomes Ellisianus*, is very abundant in the Teton valley and doubtless throughout northern Montana and the north-west territory. *Shepherdia argentea* in these regions frequently grows in dense groves along streams and the fungus with its pileus the color of the host bark and pure white or creamy pore surface forms a striking and beautiful object. It is a pleasure to dedicate this species to Mr. J. B. Ellis, who has so generously helped me in my mycological work in Montana and elsewhere.—F. W. ANDERSON, *New York City*, Jan. 9th, 1891.

Silphium laciniatum L.—In the Botanic Garden of Harvard University two specimens of *Silphium laciniatum* L. have been cultivated for a number of years. Although these plants differ very noticeably in several particulars, Dr. Gray did not regard them as sufficiently distinct for separate systematic treatment. Sometime ago Dr. Watson kindly called my attention to the plants in question, and expressed the opinion that it would be well after all that they should be described, in the hope that botanists living where this well-known species occurs may observe whether or not these forms are constant enough to receive recognition as varieties. Acting upon this suggestion I have examined the plants and find they have the following distinctive characters:

No. 1. Stem very rough, especially near the summit, where, together with peduncles and involucre, it is covered with bristly white jointed hairs, which are not at all glandular; leaves flat or nearly so, the upper cauline small, with narrow segments and inserted by a narrow clasping